

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 28, 2005

VAN HAAFTEN: STATE APPROVES FUNDING FOR PARK, HISTORIC SITE

INDIANAPOLIS – Budget officials today approved funding that will help improve facilities at the Harmonie State Park and pave the way for future improvements at the New Harmony Historic Site, according to State Rep. Trent Van Haaften (D-Mount Vernon).

Van Haaften said members of the State Budget Committee approved a pair of appropriations for local improvements during the group's monthly business meeting at Indiana University in Bloomington.

"Every year, thousands of people come from all across the country to enjoy the natural beauty and unique architecture that can be found in the town of New Harmony and our local state park," Van Haaften said. "Today's budget committee action indicates a commitment from the state that they will make an effort to provide quality facilities, both now and well into the future."

Approved today were appropriations of:

– \$425,000 to improve 80 cabins at Harmonie and six other state parks across Indiana. The funding will help provide both new furniture and equipment, Van Haaften explained.

"These park cabins, all of which are more than 25 years old, are in almost continuous use, and there is a definite need to provide updated amenities," Van Haaften said. "Through this request, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be able to purchase mattresses, bedding, couches, chairs, tables, lamps and appliances."

– \$1.085 million to fund repair and rehabilitation work at five properties across the state, including the Fauntleroy House in New Harmony.

"This request will fund an initial investigation of the repair work that is needed to upgrade the facility," Van Haaften said. "Actual repairs to the building are presently scheduled by the DNR to take place during the 2007-2009 biennium.

"One of the keys to Indiana's economic vitality is our tourist industry, and it is important that we offer quality facilities that provide comfort and enjoyment to those who visit," Van Haaften said. "The recent announcement that Red Geranium Enterprises will invest in improvements to the New Harmony Inn shows that the private sector has a strong commitment to our area. I am delighted that the state is also willing to commit to improving our parks and recreational areas."

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This news release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H76